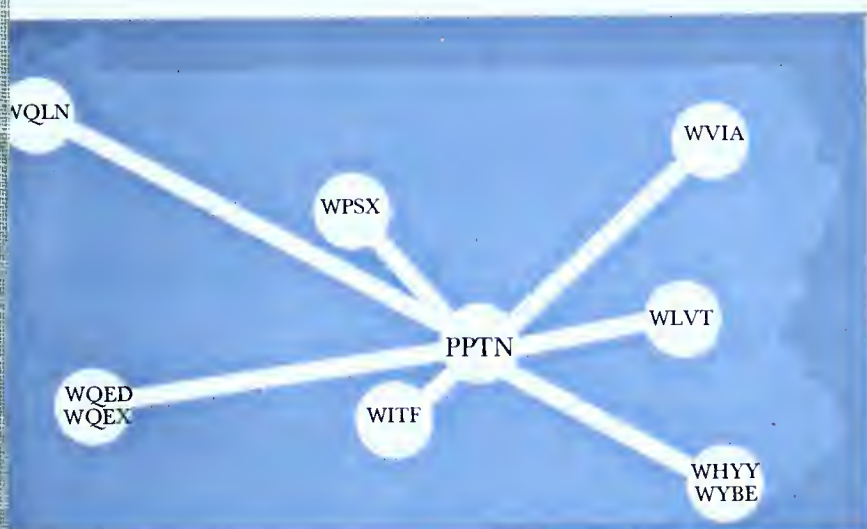


Pennsylvania Public  
Television Network.  
pptn : Pennsylvania



## **Pennsylvania Public Television Network**



**24 Northeast Drive, Hershey, Pa.**

**(717) 533-6011**

**<http://www.pptn.org>**

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DOCUMENTS SECTION

The Pennsylvania Public Television Network (PPTN) is an independent agency of state government. PPTN serves the millions of Pennsylvanians who watch public television by linking Pennsylvania's nine public television stations in a statewide program delivery system and by providing grants to member stations for operations and programming.



Mister Rogers' Neighborhood

PPTN's Network Operations Center in Hershey reaches 99 percent of the Commonwealth's TV households by a 1600-mile microwave interconnect that links Pennsylvania's nine independent public television stations in a sophisticated two-way program-delivery and program-sharing service. This microwave interconnect-coupled with PPTN's satellite receiving dish, extensive recording facilities, and computerized program distribution system--allows PPTN to provide member stations with programs from the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) and a variety of other national and regional sources.

In addition, PPTN's satellite receiving dish and statewide microwave link can provide a wide range of services, including PENNTEXT, a text service for the deaf and hearing impaired; Pennsylvania Learning on-Line, an interactive computer service designed for Pennsylvania educators and students; Satellite Educational Resources Consortium, a distance learning service in collaboration with Pennsylvania's Department of Education; and teleconferencing.

PPTN's Network Operations Center, as the hub of the microwave interconnect, operates 18 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year.

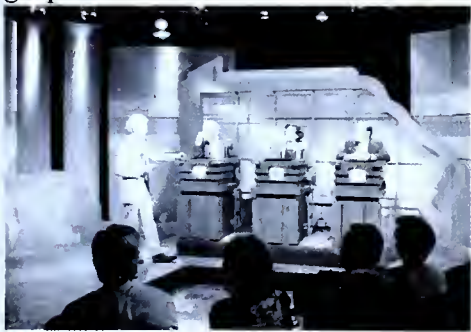
PPTN itself does not produce programs. It does, however, provide grants to member stations to acquire and produce programs for local broadcast and to create programs of special interest to Pennsylvanians. Statewide program production focuses on public affairs, education, Pennsylvania history, the outdoors, and culture.

In addition, PPTN supplies stations with a variety of instructional television (ITV) programming for local broadcast to schools. Use of the network interconnect also provides an emergency broadcast system while reducing station personnel and equipment costs by having one program recording at PPTN serve many stations.



Thirteen/WNET New York

As PPTN enters its fourth decade of service to all Pennsylvanians, the world of media and telecommunications is undergoing an historic transition made possible by digital technology. Public television in Pennsylvania has become a national leader in converting to digital television (DTV) which is very flexible and permits many broadcast options. High definition television (HDTV) is a wide-screen format that offers multi-channel CD-quality surround sound and about twice the picture resolution of today's analog system. DTV will permit the simultaneous broadcast of four or more programs on the same channel which is called multicasting. Whether multicasting or broadcasting in HDTV, DTV allows broadcasters to transmit program-related material such as audio, graphic, and text information.



The Pennsylvania Game  
WPSX-TV, University Park, Pa.

PPTN is governed by the Pennsylvania Public Television Network Commission which operates as an independent commission of state government. Following the recommendation of a committee appointed by Governor Raymond Shafer to study public television, the Commission was established in November 1968 by Act 329. An early action by the Commission was

to create the network which operates the microwave interconnect, giving virtually all Pennsylvanians access to public TV.

The PPTN Commission has 24 members who come from all walks of life and from all regions of the Commonwealth. The Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoints fifteen members, each for a six-year term. The Governor also designates a chairman from the membership and appoints two members representing public and private education.



## FACING WELFARE REFORM

WQED Pittsburgh, Pa.

Other Commission members are the Secretary of Education, Chairman of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and the Commonwealth's Chief Information Officer.

In addition, the leadership of the House and Senate appoint a Senator and a Representative to provide minority and majority party representation.

PPTN is funded annually through the State's general fund. The Commonwealth, through PPTN, provides approximately one-sixth of the total funding for public television in Pennsylvania.

Public television plays a vital role in the life of the Commonwealth. PPTN and the public stations are dedicated to providing dynamic, free, and effective public television service to all Pennsylvanians.



# **Pennsylvania Public TV Stations**

**WLVT/39/Allentown**

**WQLN/54/Erie**

**WITF/33/Harrisburg**

**WHYY/12/Philadelphia**

**WYBE/35/Philadelphia**

**WQED/13/Pittsburgh**

**WQEX/16/Pittsburgh**

**WVIA/44/Scranton**

**WPSX/3/University Park**

